



Certification and Higher Education Committee

Maine State Board of Education

Minutes of the January 27, 2014 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a meeting on Monday, January 27, 2014, at the Department of Education in Augusta. The following were present: Chair Nancy Perkins; Jana Lapoint; William Beardsley; and Nichi Farnham by phone (Board Members); Mark Cyr, Department of Education; and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Associate

Also present were: Andrew McAuliff, RSU#54/Maine School Management; Dr. William Nichols, Dean, University of Maine, Nancy Ibarguen, Consultant at DOE; and Kristie Littlefield, Social Studies Content Specialist, DOE

Nancy Perkins called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Approval of Minutes: There were no minutes for approval as the Certification and Higher Education Committee did not meet in December of 2013

UPDATES

Certification (Mark Cyr):

Mark Cyr, Certification Coordinator, informed the committee that the Educational Testing Service (ETS) has chosen to discontinue the Praxis II content knowledge test used for the physical science endorsement. Currently, we use a test called "Physical Science, #0481/5481, for the certification process. We are now faced with some decisions as to where to go with this situation.

We have two major avenues to consider. One would be to maintain our two current teacher endorsements in life sciences and physical sciences. If we maintain the physical science endorsement, then we need a Praxis II test to go with it. ETS has offered one in chemistry, one in physics, or one called "General Science." We are exploring the idea that a person applying for this endorsement could be given a choice from these three.

Another avenue might be to phase out the general physical sciences endorsement, create subject-specific ones, and have a related Praxis II exam (chemistry, physics, earth science, etc.) for each. We know the National Council for Teacher Quality (NCTQ) would love this, because they tend to discourage general endorsement areas, but we feel that it could also be quite a challenge for Maine's more rural schools which may employ only one or two science teachers who cover these multiple subject areas.

When we make such changes, we have to consider those already "in the field." Our thoughts included if we were to transition to new specific endorsements, we could "grandfather" current teachers into an endorsement matching the subject area in which they have the most credits on their transcripts.

Mark will provide more information to the Certification and Higher Education Committee members on each of the tests and obtain more information from the client relations director assigned to Maine regarding the general science exam, which states currently use it, and what their required scores are.

Higher Education:

The Higher Education Specialist position has not been filled.

Financial Literacy (Kristie Littlefield):

Kristie gave an overview of how financial literacy is covered in Maine schools. She talked about LD 843 "An Act to Promote the Financial Literacy of High School Students". Kristie gave the committee a list of financial literacy resources:

Maine Jump\$tart Coalition <http://jumpstart.org/states-maine.html>

Junior Achievement <http://jamaine.org/>

Finance Authority of Maine (FAME)

http://www.famemaine.com/files/Pages/education/Financial_Education_Resources.aspx

Chapter 118:

The Committee had a conversation with the Department of Education regarding Chapter 118 "Purposes, Standards and Procedures for Educational Personnel Support Systems". The discussion on Chapter 118 will be continued.

Teacher Preparation Programs (Questions):

The Committee developed questions regarding teacher preparation programs for an upcoming meeting on February 24, 2014 with Higher Education Deans and Directors.

- 1) Are there state policies that are impediments to the teacher preparation programs? Are there concerns about Chapter 114? Are the teacher preparation programs' needs being met with the current vacancy in the Higher Education position?
- 2) What positions appear to need filling in the field: particular subjects (ex. spec.ed), principals, superintendents?
- 3) What is the selection criteria for entrance to teacher candidacy programs and how consistent is this criteria across the teacher preparation programs?
- 4) What are the standards for the candidate entering the 15 weeks of student teaching? What is the criteria for being a student teacher mentor?
- 5) How do the teacher preparation programs address the needs of teaching the struggling reader?
- 6) What is the process for moving less-than-satisfactory teaching candidates out of the field?

The next Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 24, 2014 at 9:00 AM. The meeting will be held in room 538 of the Cross State Office Building.

Adjournment

The Certification Committee meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.